

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE NETWORK
Children, Family & Futures

HIGH DESERT PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS

MINUTES

November 10, 2003
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center
17800 Outer Highway 18
Apple Valley, CA

In Attendance:

Carol Ardrey	Loving Lamb Ministries	jcandcj@mybluelight.com	760-887-4024
Cynthia Baker	Oasis Bonding Center	oasisbondinc@juno.com	760-256-9530
Virginia Barron	SBCSS-State Preschool	Virginia_barron@sbcss.k12.ca.us	760-244-6131
Marilena Campfield	CHDP	mcampfield@dph.sbcounty.gov	909-387-3052
Michelle Girard	Public Health	mgirard@dph.sbcounty.gov	760-956-4414
Brenda Copeland	VV Employment Resource Center	lhankton@jesd.sbcounty.gov	760-955-3823
Martha Huff	CHDP	mhuff@dph.sbcounty.gov	909-387-3130
Brenda Keeling	VVCSC	vvcsc@charterinternet.com	760-943-9646
Carmen Laird	Community Tool Box	commtoolboxadelanto@hotmail.com	760-246-7874
Marlena McCormic	Hesperia Unified SD		760-244-4411
Ann Cook	Moses House Ministries		760-955-1895
Bridget Nagy	HD Community Coalitions	bridget_nagy@aesd.net	760-246-7337
Marilea Reese	High Desert Homeless Svcs.		760-245-5991
Valerie Smith	Yucca Loma Family Center		760-240-5606
Kerri Tracy	Hesperia USD	kerri.tracy@hesperia.k12.ca.us	760-244-4411
Anna Vasquez	Bradach Elementary	anna_Vasquez@aesd.net	760-246-5016
Julian Weaver	SBCSS		909-386-2902
Kent Paxton	Children's Network	kpaxton@hss.sbcounty.gov	909-387-8966
Susan Melanson	Children's Network	smelanson@hss.sbcounty.gov	909-387-8966
Chris Lindfelt	Oasis Counseling Centers	chrislinfelt@cs.com	760-245-9446
Tara Lobaina	High Desert Center		760-243-7151
Colleen Manghane			760-949-0830
Katie Edwards	HUSD	katieedw@hotmail.com	760-244-4461
Kristine Gunter	HUSD/Probation	kgunter@prob.sbcounty.gov	760-559-7644
Mary Jaquish	First 5 San Bernardino	mjaquish@cfc.sbcounty.gov	909-386-7706
Tammy Williams	Children's Network	tttwilliams@hss.sbcounty.gov	909-387-5365
Don Larkin	First 5 San Bernardino	dlarkin@cfc.sbcounty.gov	909-386-7706

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mary Jaquish and Susan Melanson welcomed all those present and self-Introductions were made.

2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the Agenda.

3. Approval of October Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted with no changes.

4. Roundtable Discussion

Susan Melanson of Children's Network reported: She is working on the final draft of the Children's Network Annual Report. Susan referred everyone to the Child Safety handouts on the resource table.

Julian Weaver of SBCSS reported: They have been dealing with the aftermath of the fires and displaced families. If the families are displaced they fall under the McKinney Homeless Act, and may attend any school. He had some flyers he distributed on the McKinney Homeless Act for those interested.

Marilea Reese of High Desert Homeless Services reported: There will be a Homeless Care Faire in Barstow on January 31st. They want everyone who is homeless or needs assistance to attend. There will be free eye care, dental services, medical testing, haircuts, clothing, and showers available starting at 8:00 a.m. until about 2:00 p.m. or 3:00 pm. Marilea invited everyone to contact her if they would like a booth or to distribute materials.

Kent Paxton of Children's Network reported: His family spent three days in a hotel with his son and animals due to the fire and it gave him a new understanding of what it is like to be homeless.

Cynthia Baker of Oasis Bonding Center reported: Their program is for single moms and women with children zero-1 year old. They conduct two residential program workshops each month for 10 days in length. Cynthia thanked all the agencies that have referred to them. Their program focuses on prevention and they are presently looking for funds to start an AIDS treatment program, since they have found an underserved population for this need. They are also helping families affected by the fire.

Brenda Copeland of JESD reported: She is sitting in for Lucille Hankton. They are working on a youth employment center and employment resource center. Their focus is youth and additional program services for ages 19-22. There is a youth employment fair coming up after the first of the year.

Carmen Laird of The Community Tool Box reported: They have 2 part-time youth working on Christmas activities. They provide basic training in computers in English and Spanish. The Community Tool Box is a 'healthy share site'.

Mary Jaquish of First 5 San Bernardino reported: Mary distributed a brochure for a workshop sponsored by First 5 San Bernardino, (Justice For All: San Bernardino Conference on Serious Physical Child Abuse). First 5 staff is still taking reservations for the conference and the form to register if anyone was interested is located in the back of the brochure.

She reminded everyone that the Next Generation grant is due next week. She read from the "Chronicle of Philanthropy". Mary met with the Grant developer from Riverside County that was awarded 10 million dollars for housing and services. She reviewed the funding information provided. She also gave these additional funding resources:

- Literacy: www.proliteracy.org
- Kidship: www.brookdalefoundation.org
- Athletic: www.balance.com/grants/rules.asp
- Community Action: www.aauw.org
- Technology: www.necfoundation.org
- Rural Libraries: Pathways PO Box 1354 Brook dale, Mass 02446-0011 School Linked Healthcare: www.fedgrants.gov

Mary also gave updates on the following:

- The next round to apply for the Best Buy technology grants is January 15th.
- Home Depot had a grant for building improvements that included discontinued wood products.
- SAMSHA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) has new guidelines for Drug Abuse Programs for the Community Based Organizations, including faith-based organizations on best practices.
- The Federal Government has some funding available for outreach to youth mentoring programs and the deadline is November 17th.
- The National Book Foundation has a Literacy in-kind Support Program funding available with a deadline of December 4th.
- The Community Development Block Grant applications are available through the Department of Economic and Community Development for San Bernardino County with a deadline of December 11th; please call (909) 388-0800 for an application packet.
- Mary has available some information from the Department of Transportation on vans and vehicles available for non-profits through an application process.

5. Kent Paxton, Network Officer and Don Larkin, Executive Director for First 5 Joint Chairmanship of High Desert Partnership for Kids

Kent gave a brief background of Children's Network and First 5 history. Children's Network has been in existence since 1986 serving children 0-18 to improve outcomes for at-risk youth. In the mission statement for Children's Network it states that we will work with various departments to ensure programs and services are offered and to help with eliminating duplication of services, while also helping to fill gaps in services. First 5 serve children 0-5 to improve outcomes for children by getting them off to a good start. The collaboration between the two departments increases the opportunity to reach their goals by resource development and grants.

In 1995 Ray Wingerd and several other department heads were invited by the 4th District Supervisor) to start a program for needy children, but the original effort was unsuccessful. The original group was committed to working with the youth in that community, and the Focus West Collaborative was created. This collaboration meets once a month to discuss needs assessment, partnership, outcomes for children and families, etc. Since that time, collaborations have been created in all regions of the County by Children's Network.

Susan Melanson of Children's Network reported: She is working on the Children's Network Annual Report and it will provide a lot of data. First 5 also contribute data regarding the particular population. She encouraged everyone to come to the four collaborative meetings to find out who they can partner with and integrate services to help work towards the goal of improving outcomes for children and their families.

Don Larkin: He has been happy with the work of the Community Advisory Team during the Strategic Planning process for First 5 and it has served as a good way to get input from the community. They now have the Kelly Torres Resource Center at First 5 San Bernardino run by Mary Jaquish. He explained that the collaboration between First 5 and Children's Network would benefit the community to help serve children.

Don reported they are working with the Workforce Investment Board and he mentioned the community needs to be an active partner in all-strategic planning for the county. Starting at the first of the year, they will begin to look at how the Department of Children's Services, CPS (Child Protective Services) could be more effective to prevent re-abuse of children in families and foster homes. Kent is working with the Department of Children's Services Management Staff to put together a presentation on this project within the next month or two. There will be presentations at all of the four collaboratives in January 2004. Under the new plan the Department of Children's Services staff will incorporate the community, family and other agencies to help families function in their home and community and to reduce the risk of abuse on children. Kent helped kick off the Department of Behavioral Health's Strategic Plan last spring and now Paula Roby is working with him to integrate both the Department of Children's Services plan and the Behavioral Health Pan.

Kent Paxton: Kent requested to be informed on the goings on through the process of partnering. He also mentioned that the partnership is exciting and essential.

Don Larkin: The main elements of the First 5 San Bernardino Strategic Plan are going to the Commission on November 19, 2003. This is a county wide plan for children at-risk ages 0-5. The final report will be presented in January.

Kent Paxton: The Perinatal Leadership team was formed to address the 80% of children in Child Protective Services cases who were identified as exposed to illegal substances. They hope with collaboration and communication, they can help to reduce the number of substance-exposed babies born in this county. He also indicated this will reduce the impact on the community including family violence, education, impact on Inland Regional Center, and sometimes criminal activities.

A survey was conducted last summer at Juvenile Hall; the result indicated 88% of youth had been exposed to or had used drugs themselves.

Brenda Copeland of Victorville Employment Resource Center reported: Many of these kids find it is hard to find a job because of drug testing.

Kent Paxton: We need a transportation liaison to participate in this group because transportation becomes a barrier for employment and childcare.

Carol Ardrey of Loving Lamb Ministries reported: The Community Renewal Conference on Nov. 8th hosted by Senator Brulte and Assemblyman Bob Dutton was very interesting. Helpful information for the faith-based agencies was available to access private grants and other resources.

Mary Jaquish of First 5 San Bernardino reported: November 20th there will be a business and faith-based conference. David Mills will do a workshop on grant writing proposals.

Tammy Williams of Children's Network shared information on resources for fire victims.

6. **Next Meeting Date: December 8, 2003**
 High Desert Educational Service Center
 17800 Outer Highway 18, Apple Valley

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Williams, Children's Network
High Desert Partnership for Kids Recording Secretary

TGW/lmm